



BERWICK BOROUGH

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1973



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BOROUGH OF BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1973

DOUGLAS S. HALLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
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BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

Tel: Berwick 6332

COUNTY OF THE BOROUGH AND TOWN OF BERWICK-UPON-TWEEDANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1973To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Berwick-upon-Tweed

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

As this will be the last of twenty-seven Annual Reports I have made to the Council, I take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to past and present members and colleagues for the help and courtesy shown to me during the period I have held my appointment.

Changes which have occurred in public health work over this period are too numerous to detail, but perhaps mention of one or two aspects will indicate how, over this span of years, small annual changes can amount to quite substantial improvements affecting our environment and health. For example, a survey of the total 3,833 houses in the Borough in 1948 revealed 835 had not an indoor supply of water, to-day there are 4 such houses. There were 1,087 houses at that time where shared sanitary accommodation was in use or where pail or chemical closets existed. To-day there are only 29 dwellings in this category. Then, 1,632 houses had no baths; the number to date is 168. In 1948 no fewer than 30 whole carcasses and 58 part carcasses or organs were condemned for bovine tuberculosis. For several years now no such bovine tuberculosis has been seen in the abattoir. And so comparisons could be given for milk production, food premises, working conditions, atmospheric pollution etc.

In the year 1973, continued interest was shown in house improvement with grant aid and this, together with new Council house building, points to an ever rising standard of housing in the Borough. It was also satisfying to note extensive progress in the new sewerage scheme throughout the Borough and the extension of water mains in the rural part of the town north of the River Tweed.

Notwithstanding progress achieved problems still remain to be solved. West Street, Berwick redevelopment it is hoped will make progress when the findings of the Public Inquiry are known; the provision of a gipsy caravan site in the new District would seem necessary; adequate facilities for camping by those on holiday have never really been provided and our feathered friends, the pigeons, are still winning the battle of the roof tops.

It only remains for me to thank those outside local government who have by their co-operation and help made my work with Berwick Corporation so enjoyable.

D.S. Halley

Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

A total of fifty routine samples from the various sources in the Borough were taken by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company and submitted for bacteriological examination. All but three were found to be of "excellent" quality. Subsequent check samples of these three were found to be satisfactory. Chlorine is added to all water prior to distribution and the water from the Murton and Thornton Boreholes is treated with alkali to neutralise their potentially corrosive properties.

The supplies are known not to be plumbo-solvent and are well protected against contamination.

Water mains were extended in the Borough by 360 feet of 3" main, 5,870 feet of 4" main and 5,458 feet of 6" main.

Latest water analyses are as follows:-

Samples from:	<u>Murton Borehole</u>	<u>Thornton Borehole</u>	<u>Dock Road</u>
Appearance	Clear & Bright	Clear & Bright	Clear & Bright
Colour ^o Hazen	1	1	0
Turbidity	0	0	1
pH value	7.2	7.2	7.0
Free CO ₂	18	24	29
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	104	186	236
Carbonate	102	142	146
Non-Carbonate	2	44	90
Calcium	58	100	132
Magnesium	46	86	104
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	102	142	146
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	38	52	64
Chlorides (as Cl)	25	25	35
Ammonia Nitrogen (as N)	0.03	0.06	0.04
Nitrite Nitrogen (as N)	-	-	-
Nitrate Nitrogen (as N)	4.4	3.5	6.1
Iron (as Fe)	0.04	0.08	0.02
Manganese (as Mn)	< 0.05	< 0.05	< 0.05
Fluorides (as F)	0.1	0.1	0.1

Concentrations in milligrams per litre.

The following table shows the position regarding supply of water to domestic premises:-

	Number of Houses	Approximate Population
Water supply in house	4742	11,605
By stand pipe	2	2
By other means	2	3

SEWERAGE

During the past two years work has been carried out on the major scheme of updating the town's drainage system to modern day standards. The various works carried out are as follows:-

- 1) Renewing the town's oldest sewers.
- 2) Construction of pumping stations at various locations throughout the town.
- 3) Construction of a new sewage treatment plant at Yarrow Haugh.
- 4) The 'picking up' of a number of sewer outfalls and connecting them into the new system.

This major scheme is now nearing completion and it is hoped to have it fully functional by the Spring or early Summer of 1974.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the Borough.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The annual sewer test-baiting again showed only a few manholes to show evidence of rats and these manholes and those adjoining were poisoned using warfarin. Once the work of renewing parts of the old sewerage is completed, it is hoped to return to the more efficient, but much more dangerous poison, sodium fluoracetamide.

Number of manholes test-baited	75
Number showing "takes"	4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961 - PIGEONS

Although treatments are carried out quarterly to destroy pigeons in certain roof spaces in the town, a few complaints were still being received by the end of the year.

A satisfactory method of dealing with this problem does not seem to exist though the possibility of using narcotics is being investigated.

Number of pigeons destroyed	867
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INSECT INFESTATIONS

Sixty-nine complaints were received concerning infestations of insects and one wasps nest was destroyed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Information required about premises, inspections and notices served is summarised in Appendix 2.

HOUSINGImprovement Grants

Applications for improvement grants continued at the high level of the previous year and the average grant per house increased yet again.

It is satisfying to see so many houses being improved with the aid of grants although it may be that there will be a considerable drop in this type of work after June, 1974 when the temporary 75% grants return to 50%. It is hoped that the level of grant take-up will increase again after a time.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	<u>No. of Separate Houses</u>	
	<u>In G.I.A.'s</u>	<u>Others</u>
a) Applications submitted during year	31	84
b) Applications approved	43	90
c) Improvements completed by end of year 103	13	20
d) Approximate average grant per house of (c)	£1,225	
e) Total number of houses improved with grant aid since 1949	618	

STANDARD GRANTS

	<u>During Year</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	-	67
Number of houses provided with		
a) Bath or shower	-	59
b) Wash hand basin	-	61
c) Hot water supply	-	61
d) Water Closet	-	62
e) Food Store	-	41
f) Sink	-	3

A total of 77 Local Authority houses were improved with the aid of exchequer grants.

SLUM CLEARANCE

The result of the Public Inquiry into the West Street, Berwick (Clearance Area) Compulsory Purchase Order, declared in 1972 was outstanding at the end of the year. Otherwise action was taken in only five cases where undertakings were accepted.

The following table shows the number of houses sharing sanitary accommodation.

Number of families sharing one W.C.	Number of cases	Total number of families concerned
2	13	26
3	-	-
4	-	-
	Total at 31.12.73	26
	Total at 31.12.72	72

Chemical or pail closets in use 3

Number of houses without bathrooms 168 (3.6% total)

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

Eleven applications were received for qualification certificates and thirteen were granted. Eight applications were received for provisional certificates and eight were granted.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Despite the findings of the Minister against the appeal relating to the refusal of permission to use a site for caravans, the site was still in use at the end of the year. Efforts continue by the Council and the Planning Authority to find an alternative site for the gypsies concerned and bring this unsatisfactory state of affairs to an end.

Conditions at the five licensed sites remain satisfactory.

Ten inspections and eleven site observations were made to sites during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

During the year 533 visits were made to inspect meat at the slaughterhouses and 6,891 animals were inspected. One hundred per cent meat inspection is carried out.

Inspections of other foodstuffs totalled:- 101

In all, 18 tons 14 cwt 11 lbs of foodstuffs were condemned. Compared with 1972 this is an increase of 2 tons 11 cwt 3 qtrs 1 lb.

Once again a quantity of frozen food was condemned during the year. Overnight failure in deep freeze cabinets caused the foods to de-frost making them unsuitable for sale.

Licences were issued to eight slaughtermen.

Nine complaints concerning foodstuffs were received, six complaints were referred to Health Committee and following consideration, warning letters were sent. One case concerned a loaf of bread which contained a length of string and the firm concerned was fined £15 with £20 costs awarded to the Council. Two were referred to other Local Authorities the offence having occurred in their districts.

ICE CREAM

Thirteen samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination, the results being:- Grade I - 10, Grade II - 1, Grade IV - 2. The two Grade IV samples were caused by inadequate cleansing of the ice cream containers. Both the samples were from the same producer.

MILK SUPPLIES

The County Health Inspector took 15 samples, the results were as follows:-

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test	Results Phosphates Test		Count	
		Pass Fail	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
Untreated Milk	5	5 -	-	-	-	+
Pasteurised Milk	9	8 1	9	-	-	-
U.H.T.	1	- -	-	-	1	-

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Most food premises in the town continue to observe a satisfactory standard of hygiene and most of the matters requiring attention were dealt with expeditiously. Seventy-nine inspections were carried out during the year and eleven informal notices were sent.

The following details are required by the Department of Health and Social Security Circular 1/73:

<u>Trade Group</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>Premises complying with Reg. 16</u>	<u>No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies</u>	<u>No. of Premises complying with Reg. 19</u>
Bakeries	4	4	4	4
Bakers Shops	8	8	8	8
Butchers Shops	9	9	9	9
Cafes/Restaurants	12	12	12	12
Confectioners Shops	13	13	-	-
Canteens	5	5	5	5
Fish & Chip Shops	11	11	11	11
Fish Merchants	6	6	6	6
Food Packers	5	5	5	5
Fruiters/Green Grocers	5	5	5	5
Grocers	22	22	22	22
Hospitals	2	2	2	2
Hotels	16	16	16	16
Ice Cream Factories	4	4	4	4
Institutions	1	1	1	1
Licensed Clubs	4	4	4	4
Public Houses & Licensed Premises	35	35	35	35
School Kitchens	12	12	12	12
Slaughterhouses	2	2	2	2
Sweet Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Wholesale Dealers	6	6	6	6
TOTAL	183	183	162	162

FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS, 1966

Nine inspections under the above regulations were carried out.

Generally, conditions on Delivery Vehicles and Stalls were satisfactory.

POULTRY INSPECTION

The following information is required by Circular 1/73:

- i No. of poultry processing premises - 1
- ii No. of visits to this plant - 22
- iii Total number of birds processed during the year - 5,220
- iv Types of birds processed: Fowls, Capons,
Turkeys, Chickens
- v Weight of poultry condemned as unfit - 156 lbs.
- vi Percentage rejected as unfit for human consumption - 0.7%
- vii The routine adopted to inspect poultry is for the employees at the premises to lay aside birds which are suspect and where necessary a weekly visit is made to examine these and judge their fitness for food.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Four complaints were received concerning nuisances from smoke, none of which recurred following informal action.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952 - 61

Of the 268 ships entering the dock, 15 were inspected. All were found to be satisfactory. One Deratting Exemption Certificate was issued. The prescribed form concerning shipping statistics can be found in Appendix 6.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises registered under the above Act was 205, there being 21 deletions and 16 additions during the year. Visits numbered 101 and 32 informal notices were served. Conditions generally were found to be very good.

Further details are given in the appendix to this report.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

There are 213 shop premises in the Borough. Statutory forms were checked during inspections under the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act or Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 & 1936

Thirty-two licences for the storage of petroleum spirit and nine licences for the storage of petroleum mixture were issued. One new petroleum spirit licence was issued. Two ullage tests were satisfactorily carried out, fifty-six visits were made and one informal notice was served.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961 - BYELAWS AS TO HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

The number of premises to which these Byelaws apply is 18, of which 13 are ladies hairdressers and 5 barbers.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

During the year, one application for a renewal of licence and one new licence was approved.

Total registered dealers	5
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Total registered premises	6
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APPENDIX 1SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND NOTICES ISSUED ETC.

Number of complaints	342
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Visits and inspections regarding:

Complaints and nuisances	227
Disinfestations	7
Factories	56
Food Premises	79
Houses	210
Petroleum Storage	56
Rodent Infested Premises	224
Ships	15
Shops	41
Slaughterhouse - Inspections	15
- Meat Inspections	533
Tents and Caravans	43

Notices Served

Informal	126
Statutory	3

APPENDIX 2FACTORIES ACT, 19611. Inspections for purpose of provisions as to Health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	73	56	5	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	5	-	-	-
Total	84	56	5	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - 5

These all related to sanitary accommodation and were remedied in due course.

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK - SECTIONS 133 and 134

There are five outworkers employed within the Borough.

APPENDIX 3HOUSING

Number of houses in Borough	4746
Number of houses owned by the Council	2399
Houses demolished (a) in Clearance Areas	3
(b) not in Clearance Areas	-
Houses closed	7
Number of dwellings in Clearance Orders confirmed	-
Number of dwellings on which Demolition Orders made	-
Number of dwellings on which Closing Orders made	-
Number of undertakings not to re-let houses	5
Houses made fit (a) after informal action by Local Authority	-
(b) after formal action by Local Authority	-
(c) after demolition order revoked	-
(d) after Closing Order revoked	1
(e) Previously included in a Clearance Area	5

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(1) Discretionary Grants

(a) Applications submitted	115
(b) Applications approved	133

(2) Standard Grants

(a) Applications submitted	-
(b) Applications approved	-

HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR

By Private Enterprise	2
By Local Authority	83

APPENDIX 4MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Beef (Home Killed)	33,191 lbs
Mutton (Home Killed)	2,445 lbs
Pork (Home Killed)	2,640 lbs
Meat at Retail Shops	-
Canned Meats	38 lbs
Other canned foods	151 lbs
Frozen Foods	237 lbs
Other food including poultry	3,197 lbs

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned:- 18 tons 14 cwt 0 qtrs 11 lbs.

CARCASE AND OFFAL INSPECTED
AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Calves	Total
Number killed and inspected	1255	215	2946	2451	24	689
A. <u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerici</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	8	45	51	7	4	113
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	120	113	77	159	8	477
Percentage of the number insp- ected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerici	10.2	73.5	4.3	6.5	50.0	8.5
B. <u>Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	60	-	60
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	2.4	-	0.2
C. <u>Cysticerosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX 5FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955Number of premises registered under Section 16:-

(a) For the manufacture, storage or sale of ice cream	40
(b) For the preparation or manufacture of sausage, or potted pressed, pickled or preserved food	9

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959Sampling

(a) Number of samples taken	13
(b) Number of samples in Provisional Grade I	10
(c) Number of samples in Provisional Grade II	1
(d) Number of samples in Provisional Grade III	-
(e) Number of samples in Provisional Grade IV	2

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Number of registered dairies	20
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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RELATING TO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY DUTIES
FOR THE YEAR 1973

Section 1 - Staff

Table A

<u>Name of Officer</u>	<u>Nature of Appointment</u>	<u>Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Any other Appointments held</u>
Dr. I.G.P. Fraser	M.O.H.	1.7.67	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Area Executive M.O.H.
D.S. Halley	C.P.H.I.	16.5.47	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Shops & Petroleum Inspector & C.P.H.I. of adjoining rural district.
G.K. Hope	P.H.I.	5.5.69	Cert. P.H.I. Ed.B., M.A.P.H.I.	P.H.I. of adjoining rural district.
Miss. M.L.N. Fewell	Clerkess	19.10.70		

Address & Telephone Numbers of Medical Officer:-

Area Health Office, Wagonway Road, Alnwick. Tel. Alnwick 2263 (office)
Public Health Office, Berwick-upon-Tweed. Tel. Berwick 6332 (office)

Section 11 - Amount of Shipping entering district during the year

Table B

<u>Ships from</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Number inspected by</u> <u>M.O.H.</u>	<u>P.H.I.</u>	<u>Number of ships</u> <u>reported as having had</u> <u>during the voyage</u> <u>infectious disease on</u> <u>board</u>
Foreign Ports	43	10779	-	15	-
Coastwise	225	60011	-	-	-
Total	268	70790	-	15	-

Section 111 - Character of shipping and trade during year

Table C

Passenger Traffic	(Number of passengers Inwards - 4 (Number of passengers Outwards - 4
Cargo Traffic	(Principal Imports - Maize, Seaweed, Fertilizer, Timber, Logs, Malting Barley. (Principal Exports - Stone, Barley, Powder Milk.
Principal Ports from which ships arrive	- Antwerp, Rotterdam, Gdynia, Hamina, Stettin, Bonniers, Loctudy.

Section IV - Inland Barge Traffic - NIL

Section V - Water Supply - No Change

Section VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966 - No Change

Section V11/

Section V11 - Smallpox - Vaccinal dates of ambulance crews as follows:-
6 - 24.12.73 1 crew not vaccinated.

Section V111 - Venereal Disease - No Change.

Section 1X - Cases of notifiable and other disease on ships

Table D - Nil return

Section X - Observation on the occurrence of Malaria on Ships - No Change

Section X1 - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected of Plague
- No Change

Section X11 - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

Table E - Nil return

Table F - 1 Deratting Exemption Certificate issued.

Section X111 - Inspections of ships for nuisances - During the year 15 ships were inspected, all of them from foreign ports. No nuisances were found.

Section X1V - Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934-48 - No Change

Section XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens - No Change

Section XV1 - Miscellaneous - No Change



Medical Officer of Health

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Wallace Green,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.

19th February, 1974.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Annual report under section 60 to the Secretary of State for the year ended 31st December, 1973

Name of Local Authority:- Berwick-upon-Tweed N.B.

TABLE A
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of Premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year	Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(1)	(2)

Offices	4	57	37	Offices	422
Retail Shops	10	118	41	Retail Shops	709
Wholesale/Warehouses	1	8	5	Wholesale/Warehouses	46
Catering & Canteens	1	22	3	Catering Establishments	174
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-	Canteens	1
TOTALS	16	205	86	Fuel Storage Depots	-

TABLE C
ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT THE END OF THE YEAR

TABLE B	TOTAL
Number of visits of all kinds (Including General Inspections) to Registered Premises	101
	Total Males 517
	Total Females 835

Signature:

Position held:- Chief Public Health Inspector

Date: 17th January, 1974.

